NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2002
MINUTES

On Wednesday, October 16, 2002, the NAVSTA Newport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) gathered at the Officers' Club for its monthly meeting. The meeting began at 7:12 p.m. and ended at 8:43 p.m.

In attendance were John Vitkevich, Dr. Kathy Abbass, Edward Moitoza, Susan Hester, Howard Porter, Emmet Turley, Dr. David Brown, Thurston Gray, Claudette Weissinger, Thomas McGrath, Thomas Reardon, William Fowler, CDR. Dean Will (NAVSTA) David D. Dorocz (NAVSTA), Melissa Griffin (NAVSTA), Kathy Marley (NAVSTA), Theresa Ryan (NAVSTA), Greg Kohlweiss (NAVSTA), James Shafer (EFANE), and Paul Kulpa (RIDEM)

Not in attendance were Mary Blake, Manual Marques, Barbara Barrow, Byron Hall and Dick Coogan.

John Vitkevich opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

MEETING MINUTES

John Vitkevich requested a change to the September minutes. The change is located on page 6 in the Old Business paragraph, first sentence. Please change, "for *the* concept of building an amphitheater at Tank Farm 2." To: " for *his* concept of building an amphitheater at Tank Farm 2."

The minutes were then approved with the change.

ACTIVITY INSTALLATION RESTORATION SITES UPDATE - Jim Shafer

Jim Shafer gave the activity update. Mr. Schafer's slides are included as enclosure (1). The Final Feasibility Study has been submitted for the Old Fire Fighting Training Area (OFFTA). The EPA, Navy, and State

are currently in disagreement for the offshore remedy at the site. Jim Shafer announced that there is a meeting scheduled with the remedial project managers to further discuss the site on November 21, 2002.

Dr. David Brown expressed concern regarding the parking lot adjacent to the OFFTA. Jim Schafer clarified by stating that the parking lot would not affect remediation plans for the site. Any impact the parking lot would have on the soil will be addressed during the onshore excavation work.

Mr. Emmet Turley asked how many acres the parking lot adjacent to the site consists of. Commander D. Will explained to the RAB that the Surface Warfare Officer School students have approximately 100 vehicle spaces for the students to park their cars. John Vitkevich stated that this would mean the parking lot area is equivalent to approximately one acre of land.

Emmett Turley questioned whether this site would be open to the public and Mr. Schafer responded that the site would be used solely for SWOS student parking. David Dorocz added that access to Katy Field is still restricted.

Jim Shafer provided information on the recent meeting with EPA, Navy, and State representatives. The meeting was held to discuss the remediation strategy of the Tank Farm study. There was no actual decision confirmed by the closing of the meeting. Jim Shafer further stated that it is necessary for the EPA to agree with any decisions being made for the site. David Dorocz stated that the state provided their comments in a letter just received and added that a copy of the letter will be distributed at the next RAB meeting.

In closing Jim Shafer stated that the budget presentation would be postponed until the next RAB meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Information Committee – Dr. David Brown

David Brown asked about the update of the RAB Website. Melissa Griffin stated that a redesigned IR and RAB website

is to be uploaded within the next few days and the minutes will be added shortly.

David Brown encouraged RAB members to visit their local libraries, specifically Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth, noting that the Navy has done a very good job providing copies of all the IR documents and correspondence to the reference section of each library. Dr. Brown welcomes comments from the members regarding the library displays and would like this input before the next meeting.

David Brown inquired as to the most expedient method for the committee members to provide their comments on the OFFTA Proposed Plan. David Dorocz suggested that RAB members either provide comments as part of the RAB forum or use the formal process of providing their comments by attending an upcoming Open House meeting. Melissa Griffin added that the proposed plans are available to the public at local libraries as well as at NAVSTA.

Membership Committee – Mr. Thurston Gray

Mr. William Fowler of Newport and Mr. Thomas Reardon, both of Newport, were welcomed and introduced to the RAB as new prospective community members.

The Naval Station Newport Executive Officer, Commander Dean Will was formally introduced and welcomed by the group. The Commander serves as Executive Officer to the Captain of Naval Station Newport and is a Naval Surface Warfare Officer.

Mr. Gray announced there is currently a count of 20 RAB members, with the addition of William T. Fowler and Thomas Reardon.

It is hoped that more new members of the community officially join the RAB by filling out the application for membership.

The RAB then discussed the methods of advertising for additional membership. David Dorocz provided copies of past advertisements utilized to recruit new members for the RAB to review. John Vitkevich commented that it is nice to recruit different areas of expertise for the community meetings.

Project Committee – Mr. Emmet Turley

Mr. Turley expressed to the RAB the importance of future planning with respect to the fish and wildlife of the local Rhode Island waters and properties. While discussing the funding of Navy remediation projects, he asked that the RAB stay focused and consider his informational input regarding dredging projects, provided as part of the September 2002 minutes.

Planning Committee – Mr. Edward Moitoza

Edward Moitoza discussed SAIC, NASA and Narragansett Bay current events. More information is provided as Enclosure (2).

Education Committee – Dr. Kathy Abbass

Dr. Kathy Abbass expressed her appreciation for the schematic provided by the Navy to the RAB, titled 'Naval Station Newport Study Area and Locus Plan' (Enclosure (3)). Kathy further commented that the enclosure could be used as a visual and educational aid as the graphic illustration shows the progress of the sites.

Dr. Abbass showed the RAB the new International Handbook of Underwater Archeology, and stated that Chapter (7) discusses the Rhode Island Marine Archeological Program (RIMAP).

Thurston Gray received a round of applause due to his accomplishments in his eelgrass transplant efforts. Mr. Gray was mentioned in a detailed article (Enclosure (4)). As explained in the enclosure, a high-speed drill was used in preparing ties to wrap eelgrass to the framing.

David Dorocz provided a copy of the current security zone map, as previously requested by Dr. Abbass for her work with RIMAP. Mr. Dorocz requested that the Navy be provided with a graphic map showing the exact locations where the RIMAP is performing their archeological work in order to better assist with protecting the areas.

NEW BUSINESS

David Dorocz responded to a prior request for information regarding a communications cable being installed offshore of Coddington Cove and Gould Island. The Naval Underwater Warfare Center will be installing a fiber optic cable that will run along the Stillwater Basin breakwater, north (to avoid deep area of Bay), and west to Gould Island. The cable will be jetted into the ground (ca. 6 – 12″). The timeframe for installation is 6 – 12 months.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will be on November 20, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43.

Enclosures:

(1) Presentation on Activity Update – J. Shafer
(2) NASA Information Bulletin – Ed Moitoza
(3) Naval Station Newport Study Area and Locus Plan
(4) News Paper Article of Eelgrass Transplant Success

Installation Restoration Sites

Naval Station Newport

Enclosure (1)

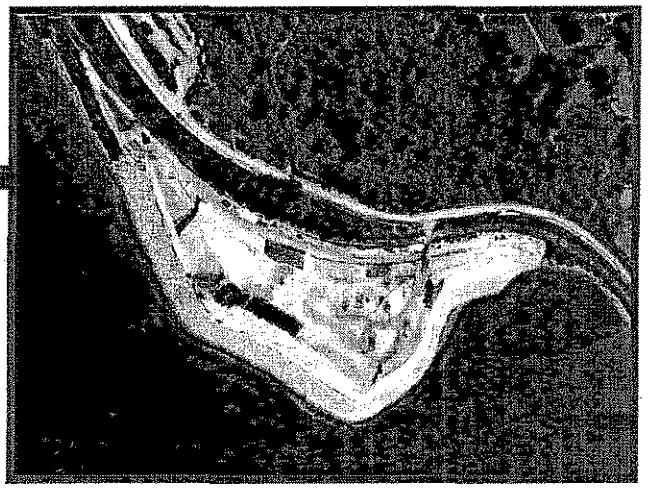
Old Firefighting Training Area

- *Contaminants:* Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Metals, Dioxin, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $8.7 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2005
- Final FS September 2002
- *Next Step:* PRAP

McAllister Point Landfill - Offshore

- *Contaminants:* Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Metals, PAHs
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $8.5 Million
- Submitted Remedial Action Report
- *Next Step:* Finalize RA Report/ Revise Monitoring Plan October 2002

McAllister Point Landfill - Onshore

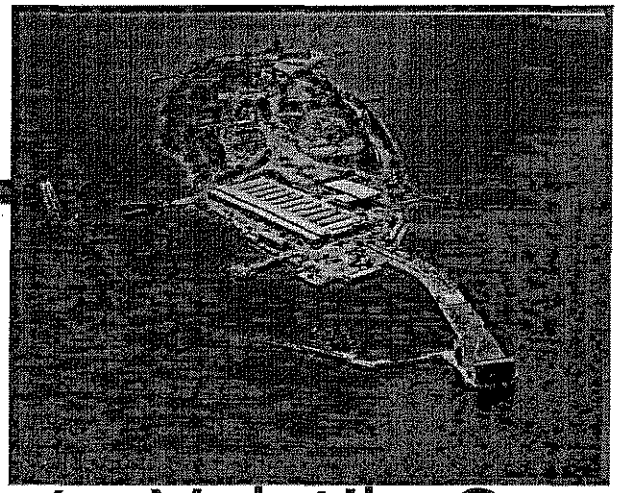


- *Contaminants:* PCBs, Metals, PAHs, TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $12 Million
- *Remedy Completed:* 1996
- *Next Step:* Continue Long-Term Monitoring for Landfill Gas/ Groundwater until 2026
  - $200K/year

Melville North Landfill

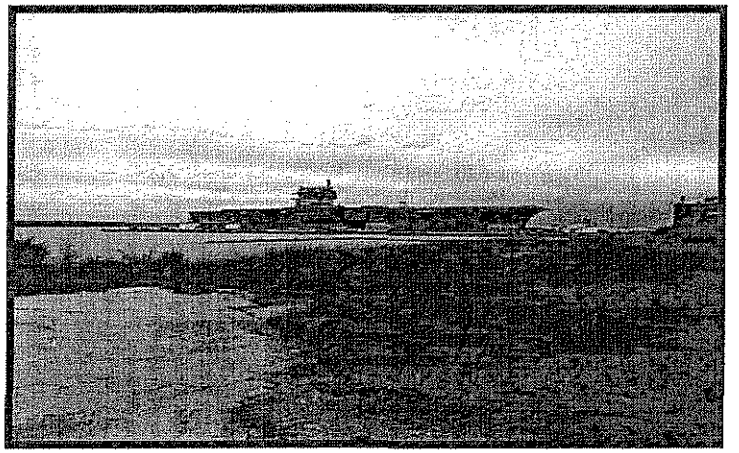
- *Contaminants:* Metals, PCB's, TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $7 Million
- *Remedy Completion:* 2001
- *Next Step:* Need Approval on Closure Report (Submitted Final Report Feb 02)

Gould Island



- *Contaminants:* Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semivolatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), Metals, Cyanide, TPH, PCBs
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $4.3 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2009
- *Next Step:* Draft (RI) Work Plan January 2003
- TSCA PCB removal completion Fall 2002

Derecktor Shipyard



- Onshore:
  - *Contaminants:* VOCs, TPH, PCBs, Metals
  - *Total Cleanup Costs:* $1Million
- Offshore:
  - *Contaminants:* Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), PCBs, Metals
  - *Total Cleanup Costs:* $16.1 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2008
- *Next Step:* Draft Proposed Plan January 2004

NUSC Disposal Area

- *Contaminants:* Metals
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $4.8 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2010
- *Next Step:* Draft Site Inspection (SI) March 2003

Coddington Cove Rubble Fill

- *Contaminants:* Metals
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $2.8 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2009
- *Next Step:* Draft SI Work Plan June 2004

Tank Farm 1

- *Contaminants:* PAHs, VOCs, Metals, TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $1.4 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2012
- *Next Step:* Meeting with RIDEM/EPA to discuss study/remediation strategy

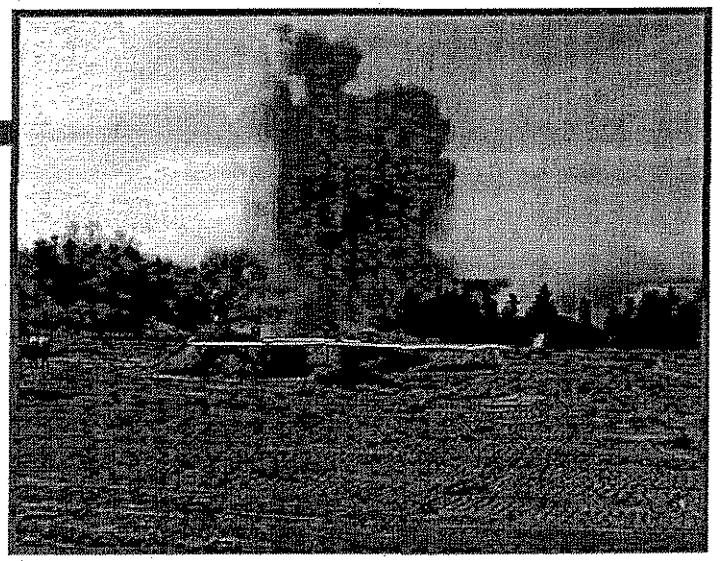
Tank Farm 2

- *Contaminants:* PAHs, VOCs, Metals,TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $1.5 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2012
- *Next Step:* Meeting with RIDEM/EPA to discuss study/remediation strategy.

Tank Farm 3

- *Contaminants:* PAHs, VOCs, Metals, TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $1.3 Million
- *Estimated Completion:* 2012
- *Next Step:* Meeting with EPA/RIDEM to discuss study/remediation strategy.

Tank Farm 4



- *Contaminants:* PAHs, VOCs, Metals, TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $850k
- *Estimated Completion:* 2009
- *Next Step:* Meeting with EPA/RIDEM to discuss study/remediation strategy.

Tank Farm 5

- *Contaminants:* PAHs, VOCs, Metals, TPH
- *Total Cleanup Costs:* $850K
- *Estimated Completion:* 2009
- Round 4 Data submitted SEPT 2001
- *Next Step:* Meeting with EPA/RIDEM to discuss study/remediation strategy.

Brown teams up with NASA to begin environmental project for Narragansett Bay

By Paula Korn

Residents, fisheries, businesses and scientists throughout Rhode Island are expected to benefit from a new environmental project that focuses on Narragansett Bay, the state's premier natural resource and its most significant economic center.

In a cooperative agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and a Rhode Island environmental consulting firm, Brown is embarking on a research project, "Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay from Space: A Perspective for the 21st Century," that could have a long-term effect on scientific and technological advancement well beyond the state's 400-mile coastline.

Building on fundamental research work at the University of Rhode Island, its Graduate School of Oceanography and the Rhode Island Sea Grant Program, this project will bring the next generation of space sensors to researchers and decision makers in the state. The project, announced Aug. 9, calls for researchers from Brown's Planetary Geology Group to analyze data from a new generation of remote sensing satellites. They will work with Applied Science Associates Inc. (ASA) of Narragansett, R.I., in cooperation with the NASA Business Outreach Program and the NASA/Rhode Island Technology Transfer Center.

"Narragansett Bay is Rhode Island's single most important asset and directly affects the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders," said President Gregorian, adding that he was pleased "that the work of Brown's excellent faculty and its long-standing research relationship with NASA are being brought to bear on issues that are vital to the long-term health of the Ocean State and the welfare of its people."

The Bay is responsible for approximately $1.6 billion in economic activity per year.

Geological sciences Assistant Professor John Mustard is the principal investigator for the project. Mustard is one of an elite group of scientists across the country specializing in the analysis of space remote sensing data. He said that the project will be able to integrate locally gathered historical information with satellite data to provide temporal and spatial information about the water, such as marine life, pollution, currents, temperature, tidal flux, ocean dynamics and other factors in the life and health of Narragansett Bay.

Remote sensing is an important tools for solving environmental problems. Although data gathered from satellites in low Earth orbit allow us to observe the Earth through a variety of highly sophisticated instruments, scientists study findings at ground level to correlate and calibrate the data. Data may be superimposed on finely detailed maps, creating computer models and graphic depictions of information useful in science, business and environmental planning. Remote sensing of Rhode Island's significant coastal regions offers a test for transferring NASA's observation technology and complements many fundamental studies conducted by URI's Graduate School of Oceanography. The project may lead to new commercial products in ocean modeling, information mapping, methods in interpretation and advanced computer algorithms for local and national distribution. The information developed with these new tools is designed to help policy makers and business leaders make informed decisions about the health and economic development of Narragansett Bay.

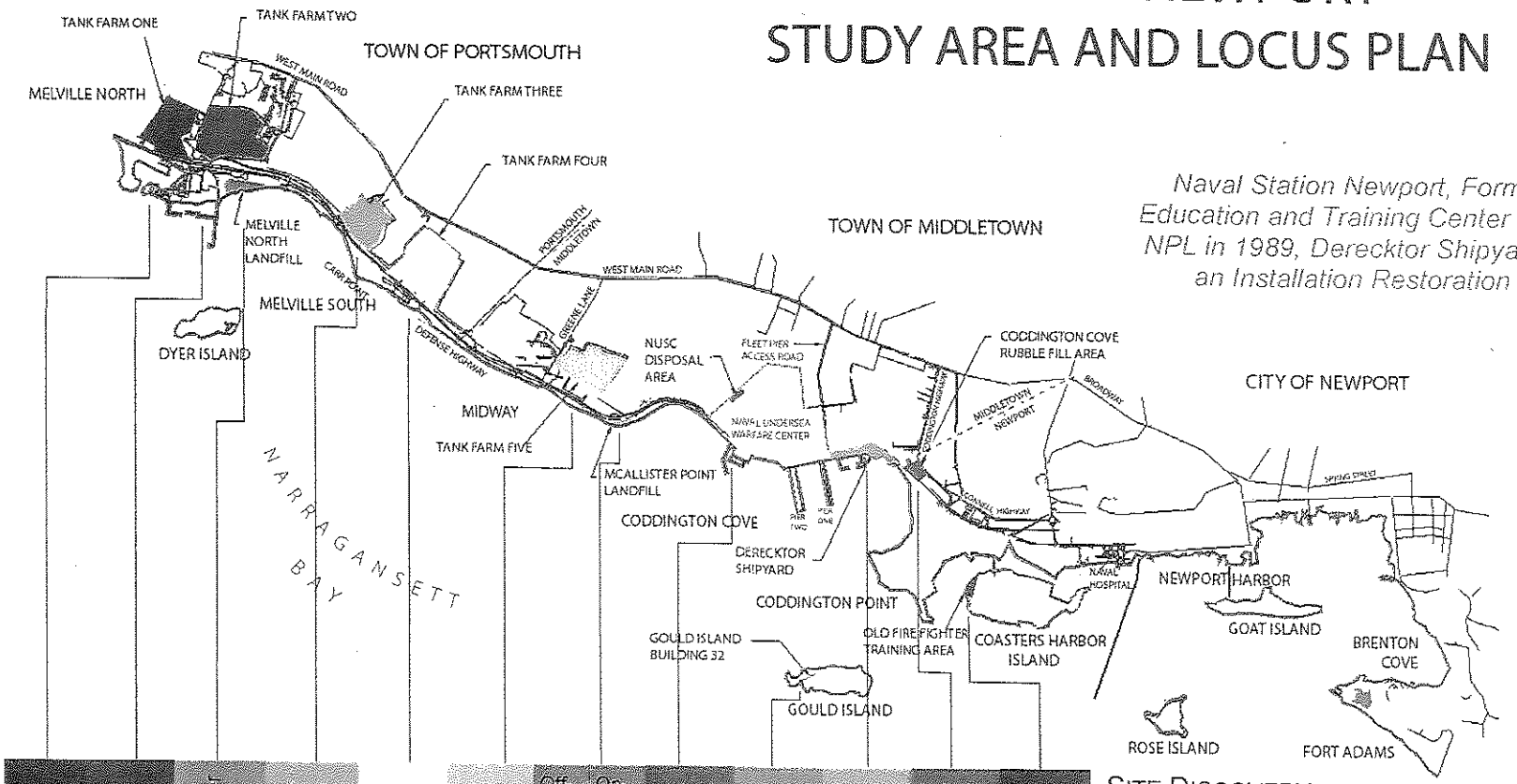
ASA is an environmental consulting firm that develops and uses computerized modeling tools to investigate complex issues, particularly marine and freshwater problems. The company will use the data processed by Brown scientists and other investigators to develop new information products that monitor

Enclosure (2)

and project environmental changes in Narragansett Bay. These changes have significant impact on the local fishery and tourism industries as well as the future economic development of the area.

NAVAL STATION NEWPORT STUDY AREA AND LOCUS PLAN

Naval Station Newport, Formerly the Naval Education and Training Center was added to the NPL in 1989, Derecktor Shipyard was added as an Installation Restoration Site in 1992.



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Melville North Landfill has been cleaned up under the States Program and is pending closeout

- SITE DISCOVERY
- SITE EVALUATION
  - PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
  - SITE INSPECTION
- REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION
- FEASIBILITY STUDY
- PROPOSED PLAN
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
- REMEDY SELECTION
  - RECORD OF DECISION
  - RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY
- REMEDIAL DESIGN
- REMEDIAL ACTION
- OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
- NPL DELETION

Enclosure (2)

EELGRASS

It's making a comeback in the Sakonnet River and Narragansett Bay with a lot of help from a lot of friends.

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS: Diver Mike Traber takes a "terf" of eelgrass from Chris Mueller, both of North Kingstown, while seeding off Fogland Point in the Sakonnet River. The grass thrives in clear water, stabilizes the river bottom and provides habitat for marine life. Below, Eric Pfirrmann hands off a terf.

JOURNAL PHOTOS / BOB THAYER

Save the Bay and URI's Graduate School of Oceanography are seeding and transplanting thousands of the plants off Fogland Point and Poplar Point in Wickford.

BY LOUISA HANDLE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

TIVERTON

In the marine community, eelgrass is considered a very desirable neighbor. Its long, slender blades shelter bay scallops, juvenile winter flounder and lobsters from crabs and other predators. Its roots quell waves, slowing coastal erosion.

The flowering plants depend on the sun and thrive only in clear water.

Eelgrass carpeted 1,000 acres of Narragansett Bay a century ago, but pollution, algae blooms and cloudier waters made the plants rare.

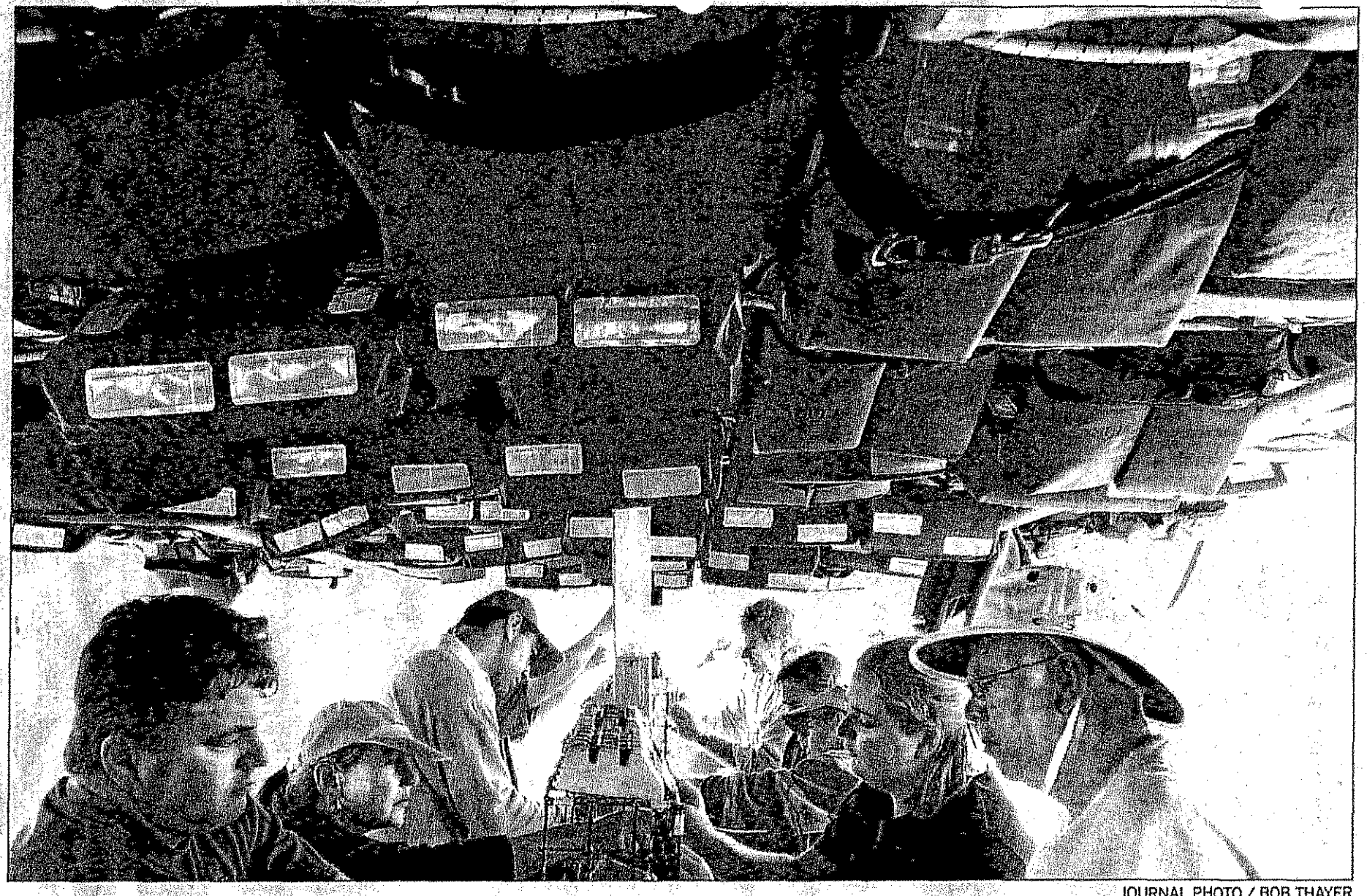
"It's been tied to how scallops are unable to recover in the Bay," said Michael Traber, a researcher at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography.

Now, scientists say the Bay's improved water quality can again sustain an eelgrass community.

Save the Bay and URI's Graduate School of Oceanography are seeding and transplanting thousands of the plants off Tiverton's Fogland Point and Wickford's Poplar Point this week. About 9,000 were harvested off Newport's Kings Beach.

It's the first time that scientists have planted seeds and transplanted whole plants in the same experiment.

SEE **EELGRASS, D 4**



JOURNAL PHOTO / BOB THAYER

HELPING HANDS: Members of Save the Bay tie eelgrass plants to the terfs that will be lowered in the Sakonnet River, off Fogland Point.

HELPING HANDS: Members of Save the Bay tie eelgrass plants to ...e terfs that will be lowered in the Sakonnet River, off Fogl... Point.

Eelgrass

Continued from Page D 1

Traber, clad in scuba gear, lifts specially designed cages of eelgrass plants from a maritime skiff off Fogland Point. The cages, called terfs, are patented by a University of New Hampshire professor. About half the size of lobster traps, they have four compartments to hold the bricks that will weigh the crates to the bottom of the Sakonnet River.

"Fogland and the Sakonnet River can support eelgrass again," Traber said. "But studies have shown it would take eons to support it on its own. We're trying to help it along."

Aboard Save the Bay's educational ship, the Alletta Morris, about a dozen volunteers prepare the eelgrass for its new home.

In pairs, the volunteers stand on opposite sides of the terfs. A "wet-hand" volunteer holds a bundle of two plants up to the mesh while a "dry-hand" volunteer quickly ties the plants, roots down, onto the terf. Each terf holds 50 bundles of the plants, and by mid-morning, the volunteers have filled all 40 terfs.

"We're hoping for a pretty dense mat of eelgrass," the ship's captain, Eric Pfirrmann said.

It's important to spray water to keep the grasses wet, without getting them too wet, dissolving the ties that will hold the plants to the terfs until it is strong enough to grow on its own.

"This is key to the operation," explains Thurston Gray, a Save the Bay volunteer from Portsmouth, as he gently pulls one of the thin white ties from his shirt pocket.

Last summer, when Save the Bay experimented with planting about 10,000 of the plants in 20 small test plots around the Ocean State, volunteers found the ties kept dissolving too quickly.

Gray devised a system using an electric drill to make all of the 5,000 ties necessary for the Fogland Point operation. It took him 10 hours to spin seven extra-large rolls of crepe paper, 40 feet at a time, into the neatly twisted "Thurston ties."

Save the Bay spokesman John Torgan said since last summer's tests, scientists have seen the return of seahorses and summer flounder to the Bay.

"Eelgrass is a critical habitat in Narragansett Bay, but it doesn't spread well and it won't come back without a helping hand," Torgan said.

The idea that it's possible to help marine life recover attracted Save the Bay volunteer Ruth Hollenbach, who moved to Tiverton from Boston 2 1/2 years ago.

"We're concerned about the health of the Bay," Hollenbach said. "There used to be oysters growing right here in this spot."

The locations of the eelgrass plantings will be tracked through the winter using Global Positioning System data. When the plants mature next summer, scientists will remove the terfs that also serve as a protective barrier.

Scientists used a seeding machine developed at URI to plant the seeds last week below the sediment surface, where studies have shown they will have a much better germination rate.

The seeding machine uses a boat-pulled sled with eight tines to create furrows below the sediment level, about 3 centimeters deep. Once the furrows are created, the scientists squirt the seeds with a pump used in the food industry — a pump made for filling doughnuts that can squirt viscous material without damaging its contents, Traber said.

The combination of planting seeds and transporting plants might be key to restoring eelgrass, and bringing back some of the marine life.

"That may be the future of full-scale restoration," Traber said.